

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
VALDOSTA DIVISION**

SANDRA EVANS,
RAYFRED EVANS,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ETHICON INC.,
JOHNSON & JOHNSON,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.
7:20-cv-00256-HL

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

I. Scope of Order

Disclosure and discovery in this proceeding may involve production of confidential, proprietary, and private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation would be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter their Stipulated Protective Order (“Protective Order”) in this matter.

II. The Order

A By stipulating to this Protective Order (the “Order”), the parties have agreed to be bound by its terms and to request its entry by the court. It is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

B DISCOVERY PHASE

1. For purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply: (a) the term “document” shall have the full meaning ascribed to it by the Federal

Rules of Civil Procedure (“Fed. R. Civ. P.”); and (b) the term “producing party” shall be defined as any party or non-party who is required to produce or provide materials or testimony containing confidential information.

2. A producing party may designate as “**CONFIDENTIAL**” any material the producing party believes in good faith constitutes or discloses information that qualifies for protection pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c), specifically information that is trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information, and materials that are deemed confidential under Federal Drug Administration (“FDA”) regulations and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) statutes and/or regulations.
3. Confidential information may be further designated as “**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P**” if a Defendant produces materials that it believes in good faith would, if disclosed, cause substantial economic harm to the competitive position of the entity from which the information was obtained because it is **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL** research and development material on a new product that has not been approved or cleared by the FDA or a similar regulatory body or reflects a party’s price competitiveness in the market or marketing business strategies of a party concerning a current or new product. The plaintiff(s) will inform the producing party of its intent to disclose such information to any individual who is currently, or who at any time during the pendency of this litigation becomes, a consultant to a competitor of the producing party in the pelvic organ mesh business, or is a

consultant to an entity actively investigating entering such business, and plaintiff(s) will follow the procedures for disclosure of such materials to such individual as provided in Paragraph II.B.8. of this Protective Order.

4. Challenges to Designations or Redacted Information: Any party may at any time challenge the redaction or the designation of information as **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** by providing written notice of its objection to the designating party, or, in the case of a deposition, either on the record at a deposition or in writing later. If, after a meet-and-confer process, the parties cannot reach agreement, either the designating party or challenging party may, on reasonable notice, apply for an appropriate ruling from the Court. The disputed material shall continue to be treated as designated, or redacted, until the Court orders otherwise. In any such application concerning a ruling on confidentiality or redacted information, the party claiming the designation of confidentiality or redaction has the burden of establishing that such confidential designation or redaction is proper.
5. No person or party subject to this Order shall distribute, transmit, or otherwise divulge any material marked **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P**, except in accordance with this Order. The parties recognize that material previously produced in another litigation may be produced in this litigation. Any material previously produced and marked **CONFIDENTIAL**, OR **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** will be treated in accordance with the same terms as used in this Order, including the

requirements of good faith contained in paragraphs B(2) and B(3) above.

Any previously produced materials marked “**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**” shall be treated as **CONFIDENTIAL** materials under the terms of this Order.

6. Use of Confidential Material Limited to this Action: Any document or other material which is marked **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P**, or the contents thereof, may be used by a party, or a party’s attorney, expert witness, consultant, or other person to whom disclosure is made, only for the purpose of this action. Nothing contained in this Order shall prevent the use of any document or the contents thereof, at any deposition taken in this action. If a party intends to use material that has been marked as **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** at the deposition of an employee or former employee of a non-producing party in this litigation, then the party shall notify the producing party ten (10) days in advance of the deposition that it intends to use that category of material. If the parties cannot agree on parameters for usage of the material at the deposition, then the parties will seek the direction of the Court as to the utilization of that category of material in the deposition.

7. Access to Confidential Material: If a party or attorney wishes to disclose any document or other material which is marked **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P**, or the contents thereof, to any person actively, or retained to, work on this action (e.g., expert witness, paralegal,

associate, consultant), the person making the disclosure shall do the following:

- (a) Provide a copy of this Order to the person to whom disclosure is made;
- (b) Inform the person to whom disclosure is made that s/he is bound by this Order;
- (c) Require the person to whom disclosure is made to sign an acknowledgment and receipt of this Order;
- (d) Instruct the person to whom disclosure is made to return or, in the alternative and with permission of the producing party, at the conclusion of the case to destroy any document or other material which is marked **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P**, including notes or memoranda made from **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** material;
- (e) Maintain a list of persons to whom disclosure was made and the **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** materials which were disclosed to that person; and
- (f) At the conclusion of this action, gather the **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** materials, copies thereof, and related notes and memoranda, and return them to the party or

attorney who originally disclosed them, or destroy them, providing a certificate of compliance with the terms of this Protective Order.

8. Disclosure Requirements for **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** information to Competitor Related Consultants: Prior to disclosure, plaintiff(s) will inform the producing party of its intent to disclose **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** material to anyone who is currently, or who at any time during the pendency of this litigation becomes, a consultant to a competitor (as such individuals are defined in Paragraph II.B.3 above) in the manner set forth below:

- (a) Give at least ten (10) days notice in writing to counsel for the party who designated such information as **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** of the intent to so disclose that information, although the disclosing party is not required to identify the intended recipient of such materials.
- (b) Within ten (10) days thereafter, counsel for the parties shall attempt to resolve any disputes between them regarding the production of the **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** material to the intended individuals.
- (c) If the parties are unable to resolve any dispute regarding such production, within an additional seven (7) days, the party who designated the information in question as **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** shall file a motion objecting to the proposed

disclosure. In making such motion, it shall be the producing party's burden to demonstrate good cause for preventing the disclosure.

- (d) If the Court permits disclosure of the material designated as **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** at issue, the information remains designated as **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** and the individual receiving such information shall be bound by the requirements of Paragraph II.B.7.

9. Redaction of Confidential Material: The parties recognize that certain FDA, other governmental agencies, and certain federal statutes require redaction of certain information prior to production of certain information by Defendants and that Defendants will comply with those requirements and redact such information as directed. Any party challenging information that has been redacted may do so in accordance with Paragraph II.B.4 of this Protective Order, or otherwise in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
10. Use of Confidential Material at Depositions: All transcripts and exhibits shall be treated as if designated **CONFIDENTIAL** for a period of thirty (30) days after the transcript is available from the court reporter. Counsel for any party may designate during the deposition or during the thirty day period after the transcript is available from the court reporter any portion of the transcript as **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** by denominating by page and line, and by designating any exhibits, that are to

be considered **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** pursuant to the criteria set forth in this Order. Such designation shall be communicated to all parties. Transcript portions and exhibits designated in accordance with this paragraph shall be disclosed only in accordance with this Order. A party may challenge the **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** designation or portions thereof in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph II.B.4 above.

11. Inadvertent Failure to Properly Designate Confidential Material:

Inadvertent production of any document or information without a designation of **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** will not be deemed to waive a party's claim to its confidential nature or estop said party from designating said document or information as **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** at a later date. Disclosure of said document or information by another party prior to such later designation shall not be deemed a violation of the provisions of this Order.

12. Inadvertent Disclosure of Privileged Documents. "Clawback" Procedure:

Inadvertent production of documents or electronically stored information ("ESI") (collectively "Inadvertently Produced Documents") subject to work-product or attorney-client privilege, or other legal privilege protecting information from discovery, shall not constitute a waiver of the privilege, provided that the producing party shall notify the receiving party in writing as set forth herein. In the event that a party inadvertently produces

documents or ESI subject to a claim of privilege, the producing party shall, within ten (10) days of the discovery of the inadvertent disclosure, notify the other party in writing of the inadvertent disclosure. The producing party may, in the notice, request a “clawback” of the inadvertently disclosed material. The party receiving such clawback notice shall immediately and diligently act to retrieve the Inadvertently Produced Documents, and all copies, including any loaded to databases, and return them to the producing party or destroy them as agreed between the parties. All notes or other work product of the receiving party reflecting the contents of such materials shall be destroyed and not used.

If the receiving party elects to file a motion as set forth below, the receiving party, subject to the requirements below, may retain possession of the Inadvertently Produced Documents as well as any notes or other work product of the receiving party reflecting the contents of such materials pending the resolution by the Court of the motion below, but shall segregate and not use them pending resolution of the motion. If the receiving party’s motion is denied, the receiving party shall promptly comply with the immediately preceding provisions of this paragraph. No use shall be made of such Inadvertently Produced Documents during depositions or at trial, nor shall they be disclosed to anyone who was not given access to them prior to the request to return or destroy them unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

The party receiving such Inadvertently Produced Documents may, after receipt of the producing party's notice of inadvertent production, move the Court to dispute the claim of privilege.

13. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence ("Fed. R. Evid.") 502, there is no waiver of privilege or work product protection in this matter or any other matter in any other jurisdiction for any document clawed-back under this clause, or for the subject matter of any such document, whether the privileged document was inadvertently provided following review or as part of a "Quick Peek" production. In the event that any party receives information produced in discovery from any other party that reasonably appears to be Inadvertently Produced Documents, the receiving party shall promptly notify the producing party in writing of the apparent inadvertent production.

C POST DISCOVERY PHASE

1. If any party or attorney wishes to file, or use as an exhibit or as testimonial evidence at a hearing or trial, any **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** material, such party must provide reasonable notice to the producing party of the intended use of such information. The parties shall then attempt to resolve the matter of continued confidentiality by either (a) removing the **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** marking, (b) creating a mutually acceptable redacted version that suffices for purposes of the case, or (c) conferring about methods to avoid or limit

public disclosure of such information during testimony. If an amicable resolution proves unsuccessful, the parties may present the issue to the Court for resolution. The proponent of continued confidentiality will have the burden of persuasion that the document or material should be withheld from the public record in accordance with any applicable Local Rule, court order, or controlling authority. However, should trial proceed and certain information and documents marked **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** become part of the public record, said information and documents will no longer be treated as **CONFIDENTIAL** or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** in this matter.

2. Survival of Protective Order: Throughout and after the conclusion of this litigation, including any appeals, the restrictions on communication and disclosure provided for herein shall continue to be binding upon the parties and all other persons to whom **CONFIDENTIAL** and **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** material has been communicated or disclosed pursuant to the provisions of this Order or any other order of the Court.
3. Return or Destruction of Confidential Material Upon Termination of Litigation: Within sixty (60) days after the final termination of this action, each party, upon request of the other party, shall either return to the producing party, or destroy, all **CONFIDENTIAL** and **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** material designated by any other party (including any such material disclosed to third persons), except for any attorneys' work-

product for the party returning the material, and shall provide confirmation in writing to opposing counsel if such materials are destroyed.

4. Modification of this Order: Nothing in this Order shall prevent any other party from seeking amendments broadening or restricting the rights of access to or the use of **CONFIDENTIAL** and/or **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-P** material or otherwise modifying this Order; and this Order may be amended without leave of the Court by the agreement of the undersigned attorneys for the parties in the form of a Stipulation that shall be filed in this case.

It is hereby ordered this 27th day of January 2022.

s/Hugh Lawson
The Honorable Hugh Lawson